



Hawai'i Folk Arts Apprenticeship Awards APPLICATION GUIDELINES

"Pūlama ka no'eau..."

Cherish the skills, the artistry, the wisdom."

Like the subtleties that transform a house into a home—comfortable fixtures, familiar fragrances and the sounds of a family at work and at play—the artistic expressions of our diverse communities distinguish Hawai'i as home to a rich cultural heritage unlike any other in the world. The State Foundation on Culture and the Arts (SFCA), through its Folk Arts Program, celebrates and encourages the vitality of tradition-based art forms that are carried on in the lives of the people.

In spite of their beauty and importance, folk arts and the cultures they spring from are challenged by the pressures of modern day life and the continuous impact of pop culture. Computers, television and a fast-paced society can compromise the personal relationships necessary for traditional methods of teaching and learning. As a result, there is danger that these arts may become neglected, forgotten or even lost.

Folk Arts Apprenticeships are awarded by the SFCA in an effort to assist traditional artists and perpetuate Hawai'i's unique cultural heritage. Apprenticeships bring an accomplished, traditional artist together with a promising and committed apprentice for a period of in-depth, hands-on instruction. The learning experience is not designed for a conventional classroom setting. Rather, the times and places for one-to-one meetings are chosen by the participants themselves. This allows artists to continue their work in a familiar environment, while passing their legacy on to others in a natural context.

The traditional artists are those who are recognized in their community for high standards of quality and a commitment to authenticity and artistic excellence. Apprentices are experienced and skilled enough so that they can progress beyond basic techniques and begin to master the true aesthetics of the art form. The program seeks committed artists and apprentices who understand their role in passing on and sustaining a tradition.

A time-honored method of learning, apprenticeships address more than just technical skills. Students often acquire a sense of the heart and soul of a tradition bearer—values that will remain with them for the rest of their lives. Values that they, in turn, can pass to the next generation.



What is a Folk Arts Apprenticeship Award?

A traditional artist, recognized in the community for excellence in a specific folk art, receives funds from the SFCA to teach a promising and experienced student. Awards range from \$1,500 to \$4,000. The funds are used to cover the artist's fees for teaching and some supply costs and expenses for both teacher and apprentice. The amount of the



award is based on a budget proposed by the artist and his or her apprentice in their application. Because the emphasis is on teaching, at least 60% of the budget request should be to compensate the artist for his or her time to teach. No more than 40% can be requested for supplies, tools and related expenses.

What is required after being selected for an award?

Once they are approved for an award, the artist/apprentice teams must:

- ▶ Begin a 6-8 month period of focused study that involves 80-100 hours of instruction.
- ▶ Keep a written journal of the meetings (done by the apprentice) to be turned in to the SFCA at the end of the apprenticeship period.
- ▶ Give a public presentation together to share their experience. This can be a talk, performance or an exhibit at a library, school, art center or community event.
- ▶ Complete a brief final report by the end of the apprenticeship period describing the work that was accomplished.
- ▶ In addition, the SFCA will visit each team to take photographs and record audio and/or video interviews. This documentation will be used for educational purposes and to keep a historical record of folk arts in Hawai'i.

The awards are subject to the regulations of the State Department of Taxation and the Internal Revenue Service. All taxes are the responsibility of the recipient.

Application and Eligibility

Folk Arts Apprenticeship Awards encourage the transmission of skills and aesthetics in a personal relationship between the lead artist and apprentice. Because these relationships should begin with trust and respect, we ask the prospective artist and apprentice to identify one another and apply together as a "team."

- ▶ Applicants must be legal residents of the state of Hawai'i.
- ▶ Funding is not available for apprenticeships conducted outside of Hawai'i or to cover out-of-state travel expenses.
- ▶ Funding requests cannot exceed \$4,000.
- ▶ Applicants must be at least 16 years old.
- ▶ At least one letter of support for the mentoring artist and one letter of support for the apprentice must be submitted by the application deadline. Other materials such as photographs, audio recordings and/or video recordings are encouraged.
- ▶ Completed application forms and supporting materials must be either received at the SFCA office by 4:30pm on the deadline stated on the current application form (if delivered personally) or postmarked by the deadline (if sending by U.S. Mail).
- ▶ The area of study must be an eligible traditional/folk art as described in the next section.



Review and Selection

Applications are reviewed by a panel made up of people from the community with expertise in various areas of traditional/folk arts. The panel's recommendations are then forwarded to the SFCA Board of Commissioners for final review and approval. The following criteria are considered when reviewing applications:

The Art Form— traditional, authentic.

Eligibility is limited to traditional/folk arts that are relevant to Hawai'i's cultural heritage. These arts have grown through time within island communities that share the same ethnic or cultural heritage, language, religion, geographic area or way of life. Though folk and traditional arts take many forms, they all share the following characteristics:

- ▶ Because traditional/folk arts grow out of a group that shares similar values, they are often the source of community pride and reflect the community's sense of what is right and beautiful.
- ▶ Traditional/folk arts are passed on from one generation to another and thus change slowly over time. Being true to the past is often more important than change or innovation.
- ▶ Traditional/folk arts are created for and enjoyed by neighbors, families, and friends. Therefore, whether they are produced for a daily need or to celebrate something special, there usually is a gift quality about them.

Contemporary "fine arts" are not eligible. These include contemporary painting, contemporary sculpture, filmmaking, directing, etc.

For the purpose of these awards, traditional/folk arts need to have an aesthetic dimension to them—either a visual or performance art. This can include music, traditional dance, storytelling and various crafts. Occupational "folklife" or "folkways" such as massage therapy, use of medicinal herbs, cooking, farming and fishing will not be considered at this time, unless the application focuses on an aesthetic aspect (for example carving the fishhooks/tools/implements or festive ceremonies related to the occupation).

The Traditional Artist— highly skilled, dedicated, committed.

The proposed teacher should be someone who has demonstrated, through the quality of their work, a commitment to authenticity and artistic excellence. Most traditional artists have a strong connection to the roots of a community through cultural heritage and a desire to keep that heritage alive. Written, audio and/or visual materials should be submitted that attest to these qualities.

The Apprentice— experienced, ready and willing.

Prospective students should have prior experience in the art form in order to get the most benefit from the in-depth learning experience. An understanding of basic skills allows for attention to the subtle points of individual style that may be offered in the personalized lessons. In short, SFCA Folk Arts Apprenticeships should go beyond what can be learned in a "beginner" class.

Apprenticeship Awards are given not only to pass on skills, but also to transmit the values and meanings necessary for sustaining the quality

of a tradition. Apprentices must be willing to put in the time and commitment to learn the art and observe the protocol demanded by the tradition.

Written, audio and/or visual materials should be submitted that attest to the apprentice's abilities. Support materials should be as relevant as possible to the art form to be studied (e.g. a proposal for studying a musical instrument would best be supported by recordings of the applicant playing the instrument instead of a video of them singing).

Other Considerations.

- ▶ Compatibility between the teacher and apprentice. This is to ensure a respectful treatment of the protocol, spirituality and values of a tradition. The SFCA encourages applicants wishing to study within their own cultural or ethnic tradition, but it is not a requirement of the program.
- ▶ Clarity of the proposal. Panelists need to have a clear understanding of what the teacher and student want to do and how they want to do it.
- ▶ Repeat funding. Persons receiving Apprenticeship Awards for three consecutive years should wait one year before applying again. Exceptions to this policy will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis.
- ▶ The experience/skill requirements for an apprentice may be relaxed in cases where the amount of prospective apprentices in a community is very limited, and/or an applicant demonstrates a special connection to the tradition.

Notification

Applicants are generally selected within 2-3 months after the application deadline. All appli-

cants will receive written notice, by mail, of the outcome of their application. Successful applicants

should expect to begin their apprenticeships after written notice is received.

Method of Payment

Selectd artists (the teachers) will be asked to sign an "Agreement to Perform Services for an Individual Contractor," which is a type of contract. Checks made out to these individuals will be distributed as follows:

The first payment of 60% of the total award will be sent approximately one month following the start of the apprenticeship.



The second and final payment of 40% will be payable upon completion of the 6-8 month project. The apprenticeship team must comply with all requirements and fill out

final reports in order to complete the project.

A tax clearance certificate, showing that an individual has no tax liability, is required for apprenticeship contracts. A letter from the State Department of Taxation or the Internal Revenue Service acknowledging efforts to resolve outstanding tax delinquencies can also be submitted to satisfy this requirement. Contracted artists are advised to obtain a Hawai'i General Excise Tax License.

Funds for the Folk Arts Apprenticeship Awards are provided by the National Endowment for the Arts and the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts. For more information, contact the SFCA Folk Arts Program:

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